

Serial No. 10/042,129

Response to Office ActionExaminer: Dang, Thanh Hat
Group Art Unit: 2163**REMARKS**

Regarding the amendments:

Claim 1 in clarification has been amended to further define "a database" to "a database stored to a computer-readable medium." Further, policy stored to the database is clarified to be "generic policy."

Claims 1, 2 and 3 have been clarified to reference "a generic policy repository system."

The meaning of "generic policy" in claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 15 is clarified to include "generic conditions of evaluation, thresholds and actions", and further clarified to be "generally easy to modify for specific application of enterprise devices" reflecting the definition given in the specification.

Paragraph 0026 is amended to remove a spurious "being" from the last sentence.

Applicants now address each item of the office action.

1. Claims 1-17 are rejected in this Office Action.

Respectfully, applicants disagree with the arguments of rejection. Applicants will provide particular arguments below.

2. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants have added the words "stored to a computer-readable medium" to the limitation "a

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database" in claim 1 in a clarifying amendment in an attempt to comply with this rejection. Applicants note that all databases are stored to some kind of computer-readable media or memory, and therefore reciting merely "a database" also recites an article of manufacture. As to a retrieval facility and an authentication facility, these are not data objects but rather components of a system of manufacture as claimed.

As to claims 4, 5, 9 and 15, these claims are directed to methods, wherein are recited steps for performing a method. Applicant notes that structured elements acted upon are recited for those claims, including a policy database, a retrieval facility and enterprise devices. Applicants therefore assert that those claimed methods recite not merely "nonfunctional descriptive material" and are not in conflict with 35 U.S.C. § 101. Reconsideration of this rejection is therefore requested.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), with allegations that U.S. Patent No. 6,587,876 ("Mahon") discloses policy stored in a database in combination with a retrieval facility and an optional authentication facility, and for claim 2, a transferential system and a central information system as claimed.

Applicants traverse this rejection on grounds that Mahon does not disclose policy that provides generic conditions of evaluation, thresholds and actions as claimed. Rather Mahon discloses that "policy refers to the description of a behavior or action that is desired for the item to which the policy applies" (col. 2 lines 1-2), and does not disclose policy that includes evaluation and thresholds as claimed.

Claims 3-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) with allegations that U.S. Patent No. 6,842,906 ("Bowman-Amuah") discloses all the elements as claimed.

Applicants traverse this rejection on grounds that the policy disclosed by Bowman-Amuah is not

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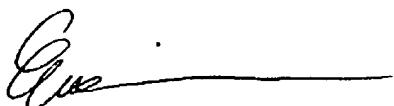
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“generic policy” as claimed. Looking to the instant specification, “Policy containing generic conditions, thresholds, and actions and being capable of easy modification for a specific application is referred to as generic policy.” (para. 0026) The policy disclosed by Bowman-Amuah relates to the specific operation of firewalls, routers and caches, and does not contain generic elements capable of easy modification to a specific application.

Although applicants have amended the original claims, applicants maintain that the original claims are patentable at least by reasons set forth by the arguments above. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these claims and their subject matter in subsequent continuing applications, and do not disclaim those claims in any way.

The applicant's representative would be grateful to be contacted at the below telephone number, should there be any remaining questions.

Respectfully submitted this 9 day of July, 2005.



Everett D. Robinson
Reg. No. 50,911
PARSONS, BEHLE & LATIMER
201 South Main Street, Suite 1800
P.O. Box 45898
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0898
(801) 536-6724

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